



Integrative Counseling and Psychological Services
www.sollarsassociates.com

Administrative Office
1777 Axtell Dr., Suite 100, Troy, MI 48084
Fax: (248) 385-1193 Phone: (248) 613-5377

January 11, 2018

Dear Chairman Vaupel and Members of the Health Policy Committee,

My name is Shelley Sollars and I am the Executive Director and co-owner of Sollars and Associates, Inc - a group practice for counseling and psychological services. I am writing as a site representative for Michigan School of Professional Psychology - MiSPP. Sollars and Associates is a private group practice with several locations in Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Washtenaw and Ottawa counties. We have approximately 90 therapists who are all independent contractors. We treat a broad range of clients including very young children and families through the geriatric population. We treat a full spectrum of diagnoses and presenting concerns.

We have offered practicum and internship placements to graduate psychology students since January, 2011. We have trained more than 50 graduate students to date. Our master's practicum students offer services at 4 community sites. We have letters of agreement with an alternative high school, a homeless shelter, a foster care agency and a community parent support group. There is no payment or financial arrangement with these sites.

Our doctoral students have always been licensed at the master's level (usually a Temporary Limited License in Psychology - TLLP) and they are able to experience a true clinical practice internship. This experience allows them to treat a broad range of clients - including various ages, presenting symptoms and so forth. They also receive experience in psychological assessment. This placement is valuable not only to the intern, but also to the community. Interns with a TLLP are able to be approved providers for only a limited number of insurances - primarily Medicaid HMO plans. In addition, our interns offer very low fee and even pro bono services to those demonstrating financial need. This population is often underserved and often presents a more complex clinical picture. Truthfully, more established therapists often do not offer such services and this population typically relies on interns and TLLP therapists to provide treatment.

I believe SB 634 is critical to maintaining internship placements at our practice. We cannot offer placements to unlicensed interns, or interns who will have an expired license prior to completing their internship experience. The population served would suffer as well if these placements are discontinued, as practicing therapists tend to decline these referrals as the financial compensation is minimal. SB 634 will help to continue clinical training and provide treatment to some of those most in need.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelley Dabick Sollars, MA, LLP

Shelley Dabick Sollars, MA, LLP

Executive Director